

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: L/O, US, NATO

SUBJECT: BELOVSKI CALL ON VEST

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ON JUNE 2 TO DISCUSS US-YUGOSLAV MATTERS, THE NATO SUMMIT, NONALIGNMENT AND TERRORISM. VEST THANKED BELOVSKI FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THE ALIMIDUAL NATIONAL CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOVSKI ASKED TO SEE VEST BEFORE RETURNING TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR THE US-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK AND THE LCY PARTY CONGRESS LATER IN JUNE. HE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT PM DJURANOVIC'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN NEW YORK HAD BEEN VERY GOOD AND REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA LATER IN THE YEAR. VEST AGREED THAT THE NEW YORK MEETING HAD BEEN
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USEFUL AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY ATTACHED GREAT PERSONAL IMPORTANCE TO RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. FOR THE PRESENT THE SECRETARY IS ABSORBED IN MAJOR POLICY ISSUES AND IS DOING LITTLE TRAVELLING, BUT WE HOPED HIS SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT A TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA LATER THIS YEAR.

3. BELOVSKI ASKED ABOUT THE NATO SUMMIT, AND SPECIFICALLY

WHETHER ISSUES OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST TO YUGOSLAVIA HAD COME UP. VEST REPLIED THAT NOTHING DIRECTLY INVOLVING YUGOSLAVIA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT THAT THE MAIN FOCUS, AS ALWAYS, WAS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. VEST PROVIDED COPIES OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND THE UNCLASSIFIED DIGEST OF THE EAST-WEST STUDY. THE KEY FACTOR OF THE MEETING, VEST CONTINUED, WAS THE NEAR UNANIMITY OF VIEWS. THERE WAS BROAD CONCERN OVER THE BUILDUP OF SOVIET FORCES IN EUROPE, OVER MOSCOW'S EXPLOITATION OF OPPORTUNITIES TO CAUSE TROUBLE, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, AND OVER THE ATTITUDES AND PROSPECTS OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE QUESTIONING OF CUBA'S CREDENTIALS AS A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY. IT SEEMS INCOMPATIBLE WITH CUBA'S PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES ON MOSCOW'S BEHALF.

4. BELOVSKI ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN UNANIMITY ON HOW TO DEAL WITH CUBA. VEST REPLIED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN SPECIFIC TERMS, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT CUBA. SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHO TRADITIONALLY FAVOR OPEN TRADE AND NAVIGATION, HAD EVEN SPECULATED ABOUT THE UTILITY OF BLOCKADE.

5. BELOVSKI ASKED ABOUT THE APPARENT US DOMESTIC "NEED" TO BE TOUGH WITH THE SOVIETS. VEST RESPONDED THAT DOMESTIC MATTERS WERE NOT DISCUSSED, AND THAT THE PRESS HAD GREATLY EXAGGERATED THE SUPPOSED DIFFERENCES AMONG THE CHIEFS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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STATE. THERE HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, BEEN NO DIFFERENCES ON THE COMMUNIQUE. BELOVSKI ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS WERE INSENSITIVE TO US DOMESTIC CONCERNS AND WHETHER THEY PERCEIVED SOME WEAKNESS OR LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN THE ADMINISTRATION. VEST SAID THAT THEY SEEMED TO BE VERY INSENSITIVE. WE THINK THEY REALLY DO WANT A SALT AGREEMENT BUT THEY SEEM NOT TO REALIZE THE EFFECTS OF THEIR ACTIONS IN OTHER AREAS. BELOVSKI ASKED WHETHER SALT WILL BE POSTPONED, AS INDICATED IN THE PRESS, ADDING THAT HE HAD HEARD THIS IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK AND ASSUMED THAT IT WAS AN EFFORT TO PREVENT US-SOVIET RELATIONS FROM BECOMING AN ELECTION ISSUE. VEST SAID HE KNEW OF NO PLANS TO FREEZE THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT SALT WAS LESS OF A FACTOR IN THE MINDS OF MANY AMERICANS THAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ORLOV TRIAL. IF THIS IS NOW FOLLOWED BY FURTHER TRIALS, THE PUBLIC REACTION HERE WILL SOUR THE ATMOSPHERE EVEN MORE.

6. BELOVSKI ADDED THAT CUBAN ACTIONS WERE ALSO A FACTOR, WITH WHICH VEST AGREED. BELOVSKI SAID THAT AT THE RECENT NONALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN HAVANA, THE CUBANS PRESENTED HEAVILY IDEOLOGICAL DRAFTS. "OUR PEOPLE" STOOD UP AND OPPOSED THIS APPROACH, SAID BELOVSKI, AND

WORKED TO FIND LANGUAGE WHICH WAS BROADLY ACCEPTABLE.

7. RETURNING TO THE NATO MEETING, VEST SAID THE ONLY REAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN OVER THE GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS ISSUE, BUT THAT BOTH CARAMANLIS AND ECEVIT HAD "ACTED AS STATESMEN". CARAMANLIS IN PARTICULAR WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PRESSURE, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATION ARE PLEDGED TO SEEK THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO FOR TURKEY. THIS WILL BE THE NEXT FOREIGN POLICY EFFORT ON THE HILL, FOLLOWING THE PANAMA TREATIES AND THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS PACKAGE. IT WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. BELOVSKI SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW GREECE FEELS NEGLECTED AND NEEDS TO BE REASSURED. TURKEY, ON THE OTHER HAND, CANNOT LOOK
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ELSEWHERE, DESPITE ITS INTEREST IN BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND THE NONALIGNED. TURKEY WANTS TO RAISE ITS STATUS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AND NOT TO BE SEEN AS THE "TAIL-END" OF THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. VEST REPLIED THAT TURKEY ALSO HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ITS ECONOMY AND WITH THE DETERIORATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AFTER THREE YEARS OF THE ARMS EMBARGO.

8. VEST SAID THAT HE WAS MOST PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE ALIMI DUAL NATIONAL CASE HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND HE THANKED BELOVSKI FOR HIS PERSONAL EFFORTS. BELOVSKI SAID HE WAS GLAD TO LEARN IT HAD BEEN RESOLVED, AND NOTED THAT THE MACEDONIAN PARTY CHIEF AND THE REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDANT WERE BOTH CLOSE RELATIVES OF HIS.

9. VEST ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED OUR RECEIPT OF THE YUGOSLAV-PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON KRSKO AND SAID THAT WE WOULD STUDY THEM CAREFULLY. BELOVSKI SAID THE ISSUE HAD DRAGGED ON TOO LONG AND IT WAS TIME IT WAS RESOLVED.

10. AS HE WAS LEAVING, BELOVSKI NOTED THAT HIS DCM HAD BEEN IN TO SEE MR. ANDREWS (EUR/EE) EARLIER TO REPORT YUGOSLAV CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE TERRORIST INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WAKE OF THE CAPTURE IN YUGOSLAVIA OF THE FOUR WEST GERMAN TERRORISTS. HE SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION AND INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR NOT APPREHENDING TERRORISTS FOR FEAR OF SUCH RETALIATION. BUT YUGOSLAVIA REALIZED THAT TERRORISM KNEW NO BOUNDARIES AND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO THWART THIS COMMON PROBLEM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CAPTURE OF THESE FOUR WOULD NOT END THE PROBLEM. CHRISTOPHER

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